Out of the speech of peace, that bears such grace,
Into the harsh and boist'rous tongue of war ?
Turning your books to graves[8], your ink to blood,

8 graves.] For *graves* Dr. Warburton very plausibly reads *glaives,* and is followed by Sir Thomas Hanmer. JOHNSON.

We might perhaps as plausibly read *greaves,* i. e. armour for the legs, a kind of boots. In one of The Discourses on the Art Military, written by Sir John Smythe, Knight, 1586, *greaves* are mentioned as necessary to be worn ; and Ben Jonson employs the same word in his Hymenæi:

« upon their legs they wore silver *greaves.*"

Again, in The Four Prentices of London, 1615 :

"Arm'd with their *greaves* and maces."

Again, in the second Canto of The Barons Wars, by Drayton :

" Marching in *greaves,* a helmet on her head."

Warner, in his Albion's England, 1602, b. xii. ch. lxix, spells the word as it is found in the old copies of Shakspeare :

" The taishes, cushes, and the *graves,* staff, pensell, baises, all."

I know not whether it be worth adding, that the ideal metamorphosis of *leathern covers of books* into *greaves,* i. e. *boots,* seems to be more apposite than the conversion of them into instruments of war.

Mr. M. Mason, however, adduces a quotation (from the next scene) which seems to support Dr. Warburton's conjecture :

" Turning the word to *sword,* and life to death."

STEEVENS.

The emendation, or rather interpretation, proposed by Mr. Steevens, appears to me extremely probable; yet a following line, In which the Archbishop's again addressed, may be urged in favour of *glaives,* i. e. swords :

" Chearing a rout of rebels with your drum,
" *Turning* the *word* to *sword,* and life to death."

The latter part of the second of these lines, however, may be adduced in support *of greaves* in its ordinary sense. Mr. Steevens observes, that " the metamorphosis of the *leathern covers of looks* into *greaves,* i. e. *boots,* seems to be more apposite than the conversion of them into such instruments of war as *glaives* : " but surely Shakspeare did not mean, if he wrote either *greaves* or *glaives,* that they actually made *boots* or *swords* of their books, any more than that they made *lances* of their *pens.* The passage

already quoted, "turning the *word* to sword," sufficiently proves that he had no such meaning. MALONE.

I alſo afraid that the expreſſion "turning the word to sword," will be found but a feeble ſupport for ** glaives," if it be conſidered as a mere *jeu de mots.* DOUCE.